



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: August 15, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the
Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County
Land Use Orders of the Director Amendment No. 10 of 2016
FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 541, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

Land Use Order of the Director (LUOD) Amendment No. 6 of 2016, Order to Regulate Target Shooting on State Game and Wildlife Areas, was submitted for information and consideration at the July 14, 2016, Natural Resources Commission Meeting and was signed by the Director August 11, 2016. The purpose of the order was to provide basic target shooting regulations to facilitate responsible use across all designated game and wildlife areas. Unfortunately, the extensive use and target shooting at the Lapeer State Game Area (SGA), specifically the Lapeer Pit shooting area, has led to recurrent problems that regulations in LUOD Amendment No. 6 of 2016 do not address. Accordingly, the Department recommends more restrictive use and target shooting regulations at the Lapeer Pit shooting area.

The Lapeer Pit shooting area, located in T08N, R10E, Section 10, Mayfield Township, Lapeer County, is a popular destination for target shooters. Target shooting at the Lapeer Pit has resulted in a variety of safety, nuisance, user conflict, and habitat destruction issues.

Between 1998 and 2009, the Department sought to resolve these complaints through a variety of actions. The Department coordinated with prison crews to clean up trash that was left behind by target shooters. Additionally, several on-site changes were made to increase public safety, including a berm to provide a backstop and concrete barricades to reduce noise and increase public safety.

Despite the Department's efforts, further complaints were received in 2011 and the Director implemented a Land Use Order of the Director regulating the discharge of firearms from sunrise to sunset, except for lawful hunting purposes and when using only paper, cardboard or clay targets. In addition, the Department cooperated with the Michigan Gun Owners Association,

Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County

Land Use Orders of the Director Amendment No. 10 of 2016

Page 2

August 15, 2016

whose members continue to volunteer approximately 20 hours per week to help clean up the residue left at the shooting areas. These efforts have not sufficiently reduced the concerns with target shooting, as evidenced by continued complaints from local residents, Michigan State Police, and legislators. The Department has placed a gate at the entrance to the Lapeer Pit shooting area and will add additional signs at the shooting sites. The Department will also modify the shooting area to improve sound abatement and to further ensure resident, visitor, and user safety.

With the increasing use and overflow of target shooting and unsafe shooting practices, the Department recommends prohibiting the following at the Lapeer Pit shooting area, subject to any additional provisions provided in the Land Use Orders of the Director:

- Using aerial targets for target shooting.
- Using clay targets unless the targets are on the ground at the base of a berm.
- Target shooting in front of concrete barriers between the barriers and the earthen backstop.
- Entering, using, or occupying the area when gates are closed except for Department employees, their designees, or fire, emergency, or law enforcement personnel performing official duties.

This order will continue to allow target shooting at the Lapeer Pit shooting area. It will, however, stipulate regulations to address nuisance, safety, and user conflict concerns. These provisions will allow the Department to properly manage use of the Lapeer Pit shooting area.

Order to Regulate Target Shooting at the Lapeer Pit Shooting Area at the Lapeer State Game Area, Lapeer County
Land Use Orders of the Director Amendment No. 10 of 2016
Page 3
August 15, 2016

Recommendation:

This order is being submitted for information and consideration. This item appeared on the Department's August 2016 calendar and may be eligible for approval on October 13, 2016.



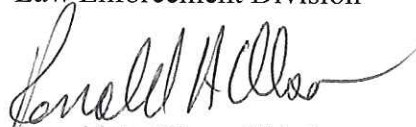
Russ Mason, Ph.D., Chief
Wildlife Division



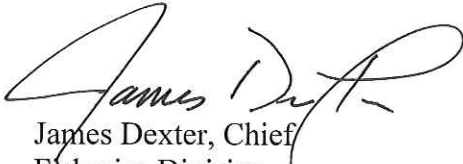
Gary Hagler, Chief
Law Enforcement Division



Bill O'Neill, Chief
Forest Resources Division



Ronald A. Olson, Chief
Parks and Recreation Division



James Dexter, Chief
Fisheries Division



William E. Moritz, Ph.D.
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LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

Amendment No. 10 of 2016

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R299.921 to R299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

3.31 Lapeer state game area, Lapeer county, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.31 A person shall not do any of the following within the Lapeer SGA, Lapeer county, **subject to additional provisions as may be provided in these orders:**

~~(1) Target shoot at any object other than a paper, cardboard, or clay target.~~

~~(2) Discharge a firearm except during legal hunting hours or engage in target shooting from one-half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.~~

~~(3)~~ **(1)** Except from July 1 to August 31 and from December 15 to March 1 for the purpose of fishing or with written permission from the department, enter upon the following lands:

(a) Section 13, T08N, R10E lying south of Vernor road and east of Five lakes road.

(b) Section 24, T08N, R10E, lying east of Five lakes road.

(c) Section 18, T08N, R11E lying south of Vernor road, except the E½ of the SE¼ **of the section.**

(d) Section 19, T08N, R11E, except the NE¼ of the NE¼ **of the section.**

3.31a Lapeer pit shooting area, Lapeer county, prohibited conduct.

Order 3.31a For the purposes of this order, the Lapeer pit shooting area shall mean the shooting area upon state-owned lands in the north half of the southwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, and the south half of the northwest quarter of the southeast quarter of section 10, T08N, R10E, Lapeer county.

(1) Subject to additional provisions provided in this order, a person shall not do any of the following at the Lapeer pit shooting area:

(a) Use aerial targets for target shooting.

(b) Use clay targets for target shooting unless the targets are on the ground at the base of a berm.

(c) Target shoot in front of concrete barriers between the barriers and the earthen backstop.

(d) Enter, use, or occupy the area when gates are closed

(2) This section shall not apply to department employees, designees of department employees, or fire, emergency, or law enforcement personnel performing official duties.

This amended order shall be posted on or after the 14th day of October, 2016.

Issued on this 13th day of October, 2016

Keith Creagh
Director